

# Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: \_\_\_\_\_ H. \_\_\_\_\_

Date: November 17, 2004

**Topic:** Report on the Development of a Template for a Statewide Articulation Agreement for Career and Technical Education, in Compliance with HJR 125

**Presenter:** Mr. Robert A. Almond, Director, Career and Technical Education

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## Origin:

☒ Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

\_\_\_\_\_ Board review required by

\_\_\_\_\_ State or federal law or regulation

\_\_\_\_\_ Board of Education regulation

\_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Action requested at this meeting \_\_\_\_\_ Action requested at future meeting: \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

## Previous Review/Action:

☒ No previous board review/action

\_\_\_\_\_ Previous review/action

date \_\_\_\_\_ action \_\_\_\_\_

## Background Information:

Upon the recommendation of the Advisory Council on Career and Technical Education, the 2004 General Assembly passed House Joint Resolution No. 125, which requested the Board of Education, the State Board for Community Colleges, and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to develop a template for a statewide articulation agreement for career and technical education. The Advisory Council on Career and Technical Education is established in Chapter 30 (§ [30-198](#) et seq.) of Title 30 and among its charges is to facilitate coordination of public school career and technical services, workforce training programs, and efforts among agencies and institutions of the Commonwealth. HJR 125 (see attachment) noted that articulation agreements can provide a seamless pathway for students to progress from high school to community college for completion of industry certifications and state licensure requirements and, for certain students, to enrollment in four-year institutions of higher education.

## Summary of Major Elements

At the request of the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) office, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) assumed a leadership role in coordinating a response to HJR 125. Several committees and a taskforce consisting of stakeholders and staff members from the VDOE, VCCS, and SCHEV were convened to identify issues relating to credentialing of teachers and how credits in career and technical education courses can be transferred from one high school to another, from any high school to any community college, and from

any community college to the public four-year institutions of higher education. The taskforce drafted a statewide articulation template that provides for flexibility for school divisions, community colleges, and four-year institutions of higher education, taking into account the various curricula that are offered in the many schools, colleges, and universities, and the local economic and other conditions. The draft template:

- Includes some standardization of credit transfers
- Provides options for customization to allow various stakeholders to match the interests of programs and localities
- Offers opportunities for improvement in cooperation and collaboration between and among the various levels of education
- Provides sections that enable collaborators to determine:
  - A list of programs and courses that are articulated
  - The identity of the agencies that are articulated for each program or course
  - The tuition charges for the various classes at the different levels
  - Information on limitations on enrollment in the various programs or classes
  - The effect, if any, on tuition charges of articulation agreements in the community colleges and four-year institutions of higher education

HJR 125 requires the Board of Education, State Board for Community Colleges, and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to complete their meetings on this matter and report on the development of a template for a statewide articulation agreement to the Advisory Council on Career and Technical Education by November 30, 2004.

The Board of Education, State Board for Community Colleges, and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia also are required to submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an executive summary and a report of findings and recommendations (for publication as a document). The final template and report of findings will be ready in January 2005. The reports will be submitted no later than the first day of the 2005 Regular Session of the General Assembly and will be posted on the General Assembly's Web site.

#### **Superintendent's Recommendation:**

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education receive the report on the development of a template for a statewide articulation agreement for career and technical education in response to HJR 125.

#### **Impact on Resources:**

This responsibility can be absorbed by the agency's existing resources at this time. If the agency is required to absorb additional responsibilities related to this activity, other services may be impacted.

#### **Timetable for Further Review/Action:**

The Department of Education will present the final report to the Board of Education at its January 2005 meeting.

## 2004 SESSION

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### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 125

*Requesting the Board of Education, the State Board for Community Colleges, and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to develop a template for a statewide articulation agreement for career and technical education. Report.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 17, 2004

Agreed to by the Senate, March 9, 2004

WHEREAS, the Advisory Council on Career and Technical Education is established in Chapter 30 (§ 30-198 et seq.) of Title 30 and among its charges is to facilitate coordination of public school career and technical services, workforce training programs, and efforts among agencies and institutions of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, in this regard, the Advisory Council has received much information from the Department of Education, the Community College System, the local school divisions, and the Governor's workforce development initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Council has received testimony that the elements and development of articulation agreements may be uneven across the Commonwealth's school divisions and between and among the Commonwealth's community colleges and public institutions of higher education; and

WHEREAS, articulation agreements can provide a seamless pathway for students to progress from high school to community college to complete industry certifications and obtain state licensures and, for certain students, this seamless pathway will lead to enrollment in four-year institutions of higher education; and

WHEREAS, an educated workforce is the Commonwealth's only way to maintain its economic base while improving incentives for business and industry to locate in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Council has also been informed that articulation will be receiving substantial attention by the Community College System; and

WHEREAS, the Advisory Council believes that articulation agreements can benefit all parties, i.e., students, schools, community colleges, and four-year institutions, by eliminating duplication of course work for students and reducing the time and money required to obtain post-secondary training and education; and

WHEREAS, therefore, the Advisory Council believes that all levels of public education should cooperate in the development of a template for a statewide articulation agreement in the Commonwealth in order to facilitate students' movement through a K-16 system that allows smooth transitions between high school, community college, and four-year institutions of higher education; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the Board of Education, the State Board for Community Colleges, and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia be requested to develop a template for a statewide articulation agreement for career and technical education.

In developing the template, the Board of Education, the State Board for Community Colleges, and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia shall (i) appoint a taskforce of staffers and stakeholders to identify obstacles and issues that must be considered, including any issues relating to credentialing of teachers and how credits can be transferred from one high school to another, from any high school to any community college, and from any community college to the public four-year institutions of higher education; and (ii) direct the taskforce to develop a template that provides for flexibility for school divisions, community colleges, and four-year institutions of higher education taking into account the various curricula that are offered in the many schools, colleges, and universities and the local economic and other conditions.

The Board of Education, the State Board for Community Colleges, and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia shall ensure that the template includes (a) some standardization of credit transfers from high school to community colleges across the Commonwealth and from community colleges to public and private four-year institutions of higher education across the Commonwealth; (b) provides options for the various corners of the Commonwealth that are tailored to match the capabilities of the educational agencies in local areas while offering opportunities for improvement in cooperation and collaboration between and among the various levels of education; and (c) a list of programs and courses that are articulated from one level to another, the identity of the educational agencies that are articulated for each program or course, the tuition charges for the various classes at the different levels, information on limitations on enrollment in the various programs or classes, and the effect, if any, on tuition charges of articulation agreements in the community colleges and four-year institutions of higher education.

Technical assistance shall be provided to the Board of Education, State Board for Community Colleges, and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia by the local directors of career and

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technical education in the public schools, the division superintendents, the presidents of the community colleges, and the presidents of the four-year institutions of higher education. All agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Board of Education, State Board for Community Colleges, and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia for this study, upon request. Input may also be received from Virginia's private institutions of higher education, upon request.

The Board of Education, State Board for Community Colleges, and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia shall complete their meetings on this matter and shall report on the statewide articulation agreement template to the Advisory Council on Career and Technical Education by November 30, 2004.

The Board of Education, State Board for Community Colleges, and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia shall submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an executive summary and a report of its findings and recommendations (for publication as a document). The executive summary and report shall be submitted as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports no later than the first day of the 2005 Regular Session of the General Assembly and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.